

WASHINGTON — Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) applauded a \$687,500 Department of Labor (DOL) Youth Build Program grant award to the San Antonio Youth Centers. The Youth Build Program assists out-of-school youth in obtaining their diplomas or GEDs while providing occupational training in the construction industry. Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement:

“I am proud that this program is located in my congressional district and will not only benefit the west side, but the entire City of San Antonio. Today’s funding will help the young people in our community prosper by helping them obtain the key education and job training skills needed to do well in life. Young people who lack a high school education or occupational training face an uphill battle in the competition for jobs. These funds will provide our disadvantaged youth an opportunity to overcome the challenges facing them and help them become economically self sufficient.

“The Youth Build program empowers disadvantaged youth to turn their lives around and become leaders in the San Antonio community, by including individuals who have been in the juvenile justice system, youth aging out of foster care, high school dropouts and others. I commend the San Antonio Youth Centers for their continued commitment in reaching out to the community’s high-risk youth and providing them the tools necessary for lifelong success. The organization’s deep-rooted programs in education and community leadership are a treasured resource in our community.”

Youth Build provides job training and educational opportunities for at risk youth ages 16-24 while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. Youth split their time between the construction site and the classroom, where they earn their GED or high school diploma, learn to be community leaders, and prepare for college and other postsecondary training opportunities. Youth Build includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement.

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